

IRRIGATION OF THE WEST

Three hundred engineers, surveyors and helpers in the irrigation reclamation service are out in the field studying and planning for irrigation projects in the great West. Some few are superintending the actual construction of huge dams and canals. Mr. Newell himself, the head of the service, has just returned to Washington from a somewhat extensive western trip. He reports great interest throughout the West in the big works proposed by the government, but sounds a note of warning against numerous schemes and frauds which are being foisted upon various localities as a result of the great interest aroused through national irrigation activities, says a special Washington correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle.

"There are many instances of honest, effective and legitimate irrigation works," he said, "where the settlers themselves, or their capital to some extent, have gone in and built the works, owning or controlling them along with the reclaimed land, but I do not know of any of the big private irrigation schemes which are what might be called legitimate development enterprises. They are exploited probably more for selling stock and bonds than for watering land.

"It is singular, too, how many men of ordinary hard business sense will go into these wild-cat things. A successful grocer, for instance, who, one would naturally think, would find out every detail of a new business, will draw his checks for some irrigation stocks or bonds in the most trustful and confiding manner—paying for an investment regarding which he knows absolutely nothing, can find out nothing and which is as problematical in its returns as the veriest wild-cat mine. Other people make personal investigation. They go over the land to be reclaimed; they see the splendid crops growing on other lands which have been reclaimed and having 'investigated' they confidently invest, even though a tract of 50,000 acres is to be reclaimed with a water supply insufficient for 5,000 acres. I am mentioning these figures advisedly. There are instances today where irrigation shares are being sold for land containing absolutely no water supply at all and which can never be irrigated, but will always remain a desert.

"The meanest and most contemptible class of sales are where the promoters hold out the alluring picture to the poor man of family that he is, by his small regular contributions, buying a home for himself—a little home to which he can go in his older age and by reason of the bountiful crops due to irrigation support himself and his family. Thousands of people in the United States are making such contributions which they might as well throw into a rat hole."

Reorganization of the Le Roi.

A Rossland, British Columbia, dispatch of late date says that complete reorganization of Le Roi mine and smelter management takes effect immediately. Managing Director A. J. McMillan is appointed general manager and J. W. Astley is general

superintendent. They commenced their duties today. Albert I. Goodell takes the smelter management, commencing in a week or ten days. William S. Rugb, now of Spokane, returns to Rossland as office manager for Le Roi and James H. Trevarrow, mine foreman for some time past, remains as superintendent. Mr. McMillan said today the company's intention is to continue operation at the mine and smelter, probably with increased activity at an early date. The question of concentration is still open. John H. McKenize returns shortly to submit a report on concentration experiments.

LOTS OF PROPERTIES READY TO SHIP ORE

A group of mining men were indulging in some general talk this morning in regard to the smelter's ore outlook and the number of properties now ready to ship to the plant. After a little figuring one said:

"There are at least twenty mines now within striking distance of Sumpter, which can easily furnish from five to twenty-five tons a day to the smelter, and do it at a big profit. And the majority of these properties have not so far sent in a pound of ore. I am counting the ones mainly which are now in a position to ship, and not those which are furnishing ore. With the activity of the present smelter management there is no reason why the plant, when it resumes, should not have an abundant supply."

HIGH GRADE SULPHIDES AT THE NORTH POLE EXTENSION

A. W. Ellis, one of the owners of the North Pole Extension company, operating in the Cracker Creek district, came in from the property last night with some more samples of the sulphide ore mentioned in a previous issue. The lower drift is now in 130 feet, and the pay streak shows about four feet in width. The vein is some forty feet wide, but the pay ore clings to the hanging wall, where drift work is now being prosecuted. In the upper workings this shoot shows values ranging from \$10 to \$25. While no assays have been made from the lower workings, the indications are that the ore will run far better. In appearance it is high grade gold sulphides.

Investor Well Pleased.

F. P. Center, of Brooklyn, New York, accompanied by his wife, returned today from a visit to the Blue Bird and Buckhorn, and left on the afternoon train for Portland and San Francisco, before returning east. Mr. Center is interested in both the Blue Bird and the Buckhorn properties.

He is also interested in the Black Butte and regrets that he did not have time to visit it. Both Mr. and Mrs. Center are delighted with their trip through Oregon, and are sorry that their stay could not have been prolonged.

Off For Tonapah.

Thomas Costello, manager of the Advance company, left today for Tonapah, Nevada. Mr. Costello will take a survey of that camp and if possible will secure property to operate.

WHY TIN MINING WAS A FAILURE

Cassiterite or black tin was first identified in the Black Hills in 1876 as stream tin in the gold dust from the northern Hills. The second discovery was made in Elk gulch, in the southern Hills, in April, 1877.

In June, 1883, specimens of a dark, heavy mineral from the Etta mine proved to be cassiterite of excellent quality. At the time of the discovery of the cassiterite the Etta was being explored for mica. This work ceased quickly and the property in 1884 came into the possession of the Harney Peak Tin Mining, Milling & Manufacturing company.

And to this same Harney Peak Tin company is due the blighting handicap that for the past ten years has killed tin mining in the Black Hills and the United States, for in the Black Hills only are there prospects of tin in paying quantities.

The Harney Peak company evidently started out with the purpose of legitimately mining and producing tin. They soon opened up the richest tin ever found in any tin mining district in the world. Several carloads of the rich tin rock were shipped to England for treatment and exhibition. Such rich tin ore had never been seen there and created a great furore among the Englishmen and owners of the Cornwall tin mines, which had never played out in their production of tin since first discovered by the Phoenicians, as chronicled by Herodotus, 450 years before Christ.

The Englishmen had plenty of money for mining investments and particularly for good tin mines, as to the everlasting permanency of which they knew from their own Cornwall mines, which had produced fortunes for many generations of owners. They were clamorous for stock in the Black Hill tin mines. This opportunity to gather in millions of good English money by a colossal stock-selling scheme was too great a temptation for James Wilson, who was the promoter of the company and the arch conspirator of the whole swindle.

Realizing it would take a number of years to develop tin prospects into mines and bring them to their zenith of production, the original plan for producing tin was abandoned for the more rapid road to fortune, capitalizing, printing and selling stock. Accordingly a gigantic corporation, capitalized at \$15,000,000, was organized to take over the small company and leave millions of stock for sale. When that was sold bonds for \$5,000,000 more were issued for sale. Then another still larger company was organized to take over the whole property again and furnish still another lot of extra stock to be sold. By this time clamors by the stockholders for tin production commenced and the schemers concluded to build a big mill to help the further sale of stock. In the meantime loud cries of misappropriation of funds were made, and the end, for some time in sight, came some weeks after the completion of the mill.

The English stockholders commenced suit against the American stockholders to recover the millions alleged to have been received from the sale of stock and not legitimately

put into operations of of the company. Mr. Wilson, the promoter of the company, was induced to go to England, where he was arrested, but died before his trial was reached. It is alleged that of the whole capitalization of \$20,000,000, not over \$2,000,000, was spent for the company, and of that much went for promotion expenses, wasteful extravagance, the purchase of worthless mining claims from insiders at big prices, until over 1,100 such claims were owned by the company, and for useless assessment holes and development of such worthless claims.

It has been claimed and published over the world by unfriendly skeptics that the short run of the mill demonstrated that there is no pay tin ore in the Black Hills. The facts are that the mill was run by the builders and not by the company, to see how much tin was in the rock. The money had been put up to pay for the mill when completed and was run by the builders only, for the purpose of demonstrating that it would treat the stipulated number of tons (250) per day and save the tin, which it did. No smelter was ever erected to reduce the metallic tin, the cassiterite saved by the mill, and is still stored at the mill, except what was shipped away. It was then apparent no more stock could be sold on account of the suit for an accounting and a receiver, about to be commenced, and the whole operation, was shut down and since its properties have been tied up in litigation for the past ten years. Thus has the tin production of America been sandbagged and discredited.

Within the last year, however, the best of the Harney Peak tin mines have been bought up by other parties and extensive operations already commenced on the Gertie mine at Hill City. A fully equipped mining plant has been in operation for several months and a modern mill and smelter will soon be erected at the mine for the production of metallic tin.—From the advance sheets of the new book on the Black Hills to be issued by the Burlington Railway.

SLIGHT CHANGES IN THE S. V. SCHEDULE

The New Sumpter Valley schedule makes but slight changes from the old time. The passenger leaves Baker City at 8:45 a. m. as before, arrives in Sumpter at 10:25, and reaches Tipton at 12 noon. Returning it leaves Tipton at 1 o'clock, arrives in Sumpter 2:35 p. m. and Baker City at 4 o'clock. The freight arrives at Sumpter at 10 o'clock a. m. and returning from Tipton arrives at 3 o'clock, p. m.

Chancellor Group.

Memo Unzieker, manager and main owner of the Chancellor group in the Cable Cove district, came in last night after supplies. Mr. Unzieker says the mine is looking fine, better than ever before, and he will prosecute work uninterruptedly.

Work at Monumental.

C. J. Allen, of Portland, president and manager of the Monumental company, came in this morning and left this afternoon for the property. Mr. Allen has a good force of men engaged in development work and the present end aimed at is to start the mill operating early next year.